

December 28, 2005

Times - Clarion

RE: Application for a General Quarry Permit for a Rock Collecting Site  
in Wheatland County

Dear Editor:

Please place the following notice in the legal publication section of your newspaper once each week for three consecutive weeks:

#### Legal Notice

Notice of Application for Operating Permit (pursuant to the Metal Mine Reclamation Act, Section 82-4-353 (1), MCA).

Rocky Mountain Stone, Inc., P. O. Box 6, Bozeman, MT filed an application on November 7, 2005 for an Operating Permit from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Environmental Management Bureau in Helena. Rocky Mountain Stone has a mineral lease from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation to hand pick sandstone rock for landscaping and masonry purposes. The operation would be on state land in Section 2, Township 6 North and Range 15 East, 10 miles south of Harlowton, MT in Wheatland County.

Rocky Mountain Stone collects rock under a Small Miner's Exclusion Statement (SMES) from two other sites in Wheatland County. It cannot add another site under the SMES. Rocky Mountain Stone must obtain an operating permit for the third site.

The proposed operation has been reviewed for compliance under a Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for a General Quarry Operating Permit published by the DEQ in February 2004. DEQ has determined that this operation meets the requirements listed in the SEA because the site would not have more than 5 acres unreclaimed at one time. The operating permit will be issued once the application is complete and the reclamation bond has been posted to ensure reclamation after completion of the rock collecting activities. If Rocky Mountain Stone develops additional lease agreements on other ranches in the future, they would have to apply for an amendment or revision to the operating permit.

The applicant seeks approval for an operating permit of approximately 160 permit acres. The operating plan calls for the reclamation of all surface disturbances.

Copies of the application can be reviewed by the public at DEQ offices at 1520 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., in Helena, MT. Please submit comments or questions on the proposal by February 15, 2006. For information on the project and to submit comments on the proposal, contact:

Patrick Plantenberg  
Operating Permit Section Supervisor  
Environmental Management Bureau  
Department of Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 2000901  
Helena, MT 59620-0901  
(406) 444-4960 or e-mail at [pplantenberg@state.mt.us](mailto:pplantenberg@state.mt.us)

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Please send your invoice, tear sheet, and affidavit of publication to DEQ at the above address to the attention of Sue Fairchild. Please indicate that the bill applies to Doc # EMB 5036 091. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Patrick Plantenberg  
Operating Permit Section Supervisor  
Environmental Management Bureau

File pending rockymountainstone.37

PP/sf